



# AOC Newsletter



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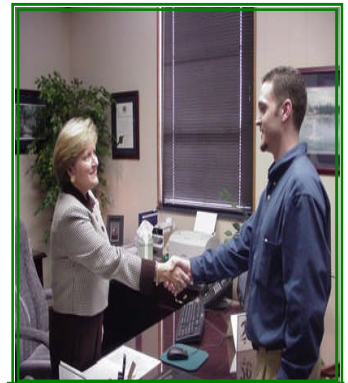
## Timothy E. Wyatt, Pioneer in UJS Court Technology, dies at age 32



Tim Wyatt, 1977-2009

**T**im Wyatt, formerly of the Administrative Office of Courts' CSIT division, died Sunday, November 15, 2009 at the age of 32. Tim was a resident of Columbus, GA and currently worked at CyberBest Technologies, Inc. based out of New Orleans, LA as a Project Manager for their Justice Solutions projects. While at the AOC, Tim was a true pioneer for the Unified Judicial System through his efforts involving development, implementation and deployment of many statewide initiatives concerning e-filing systems within the state courts. In addition to his project management credentials, Tim was an accomplished developer and trainer. Tim made a tremendous impact on those who knew him and worked with him. Tim paved the way for the work that we do here at the AOC with our electronic applications. The impact he made on the State of Alabama will be his legacy.

**A**ccording to **Kathy Coulter**, Russell County Circuit Clerk, "*Tim was a self-taught computer whiz-kid.*" Kathy, who knew Tim best, further said, "I am extremely proud that Tim Wyatt's career in court technology began in the Russell County Clerk's office in 2002. The purchase of pc's for my office in 2003 began our transition from the mainframe terminals to personal computers and internet based applications. No one in my office had any computer experience. Tim patiently taught us everything...beginning with how to logon to a pc. Within a year of his employment, there was nothing in the civil or family court divisions that Tim could not handle. He began making suggestions of how we could do things in a more efficient manner by utilizing computers. While working for me, Tim traveled to several Alabama counties setting up pc's and training court specialists. He also developed the first electronic appeal while working as a 'temporary' employee. As a Court Specialist I, under Mike Carroll's direction, Tim developed the **eAppellate** application. Tim loved our court system. He never stopped thinking about how to increase productivity and efficiency in the clerk's office. While working full time, Tim also attended night classes at Columbus State University and obtained a degree in Computer Science, *graduating with honors*. This was only the beginning for the rest of us! It was not long before Mike Carroll discovered the many talents of the amazing Tim Wyatt. As much as I hated losing him to the AOC, I knew that given the opportunity, Tim could be instrumental in the future of court technology in Alabama...and was he ever. Tim began working for the AOC in 2005. In only a few short years, Tim developed or was influential in the development of almost every eApplication we now use. He also wrote several scripts and automation tools while providing pc and technology support to UJS and several other agencies. Tim's experience in working in our civil divisions made him an excellent liaison between clerks' offices and Alacourt/Alafile developers. Tim's contributions did not stop with application development. He travelled from county to county during the implementation of Alafile. In less than three years, Tim personally trained over 7,000 users to include judges, clerks, court specialists, judicial assistants, district attorneys and private attorneys. Tim made a tremendous impact on the way Alabama courts operate. Even after leaving the AOC, Tim was always willing to help whenever I called on him. Tim's faith, inspiration, love and patience were intense. He was a humble man of great character, a true servant leader and a loyal friend to us all. Even in death, Tim continued to give all that he could. As an organ donor, Tim was able to help many other individuals. I will be forever grateful that God sent Tim to be a part of my life. He will be greatly missed."



Kathy Coulter, Circuit Clerk of Russell County and Tim Wyatt

**J**ane Smith, Circuit Clerk of Madison County, also had this to say of Tim: "There are a lot of lessons to be learned from Tim Wyatt's life. First, never underestimate the impact your kindness can have. Tim found his niche; he learned and understood how the court system worked. With his knowledge of technology, he envisioned how the work of the courts could be done easier and more efficiently. Tim's footprint is on just about every computer application currently used in our courts, AlaFile, AlaCourt, AlaPay, AlaVault, eAppellate, eTranscripts, etc. In the almost 37 years I have been in the Alabama court system, I have not met another person who has had the impact, both personally and professionally, that Tim Wyatt has had. I am so thankful that Tim Wyatt became a part of my life six short years ago. Tim has helped me to be a better person, and he has helped me to be a better Circuit Clerk. I am truly thankful for the blessing of Tim's friendship. He will be missed..."

"Tim helped us see the vision of how our courts could function, how our jobs could be made better and how we could provide better service to our citizens utilizing technology."

~ Jane Smith  
Circuit Clerk,  
Madison County

# The Courtroom: Forever Cinematic

By Robert Rygiel, Court Services & IT



A pensive Atticus Finch (Gregory Peck) in *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Since the advent of Hollywood, moviegoers have been fascinated with crime in cinema. Cecil B. DeMille, the father of Hollywood, explored the subject shortly after World War I. It continued to rise in popularity throughout the 1920s and reached an apex in the early 1930s with James Cagney's mobster characters heading up the movement.

Because crime was so prominent in cinema and appealing to audiences, it was only natural that all of the societal elements that went along with crime also enter the picture, literally. Trials, judges, prosecution and defense all began to emerge in mid-1930s American cinema. Writers and directors had transitioned from merely showing crime to showing the judicial consequences thereof.

In 1939, *Young Mr. Lincoln*, a film about a pre-presidential Abraham Lincoln (Henry Fonda) defending two brothers accused of murder, was the first courtroom drama to garner the attention of the American audience. It was also the first

courtroom movie to be noticed by the Academy Awards by being nominated for Best Screenplay. This film initiated the courtroom movement, and a number of notable courtroom dramas, especially *12 Angry Men* (also featuring the honest-faced Henry Fonda), appeared on the silver screen between 1939 and 1962.

However, none was more famous and loved than the 1962 *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Gregory Peck embodied Harper Lee's vision of Atticus Finch, and the Academy recognized the movie by handing it eight nominations, including one for Best Picture.

Even though *Mockingbird* was not the recipient of the Oscar for Best Picture that year, the film enhanced the popularity of having courts featured in movies. This, ultimately, became a good indicator of the audiences' desire for more courtroom movies. As William Friedkin's *The French Connection* was the catalyst for the "buddy cop" genre, *Mockingbird* was surely it for courtroom movies. From 1963 to 1978, many of arguably the greatest movies integrated the court in some way. Even Michael Corleone (Al Pacino) appears before a U.S. Senate committee, very similar to a courtroom trial, in *The Godfather Part II*.

The Academy finally awarded Best Picture to a courtroom movie in 1979 for *Kramer v. Kramer*. This movie about an unsettling custody battle portrayed a divorced husband and wife in anything but a good situation. Two movie legends, Meryl Streep and Dustin Hoffman, were able to evoke emotion from the audience in no way that a courtroom movie had ever done. While *Mockingbird* brought hope, *Kramer* brought unfortunate reality.

A slew of movies strictly about the courts have appeared since then, most notably and award winning, *And Justice for All*, *The Verdict*, *My Cousin Vinny*, *A Few Good Men*, and *Philadelphia*. These movies have elevated the actors and actresses starring in them to stratospheric screen icons.

From *Kramer* to the present, movies that are not remotely about the courtroom will use it as a character. Whether it is an emotionless Andy Dufresne standing before a stern judge in *The Shawshank Redemption* or Joe Chill repenting in court for his slaying of the Wayne family in *Batman Begins*, whatever capacity, the courtroom is, essentially, an actor in the movie.

Regardless of how movies have portrayed this sometimes silent, but always apparent, character, the courtroom definitely takes on a personality. Each movie is unique in its painting of the courtroom and judicial system. Some movies treat it corrupt and others consider it the savior of humanity. And still others have shown a comical atmosphere, while some have mocked the courtroom and viewed it as nothing more than science fiction.

Whatever the case, however portrayed, American audiences still flock to courtroom movies. The courtroom is a fascinating thing in both real life and on the celluloid. The one constant of American history is that movies thrive in times of prosperity or poverty, in Bull markets or Bear markets. The courtroom feature of a movie has become a staple, and just like movies, will always be welcomed.



Frank Galvin (Paul Newman) appeals to a court in *The Verdict*



**Top 25 American Bar Association Journal Legal Movies**

[http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/the\\_25\\_greatest\\_legal\\_movies](http://www.abajournal.com/magazine/article/the_25_greatest_legal_movies)

# Privacy

By Robert Barclay, Security Analyst



It seems that everyday we hear a new case of data theft whether it's an individual or an organization. Identity theft is the number one crime in the United States and annually costs individuals and businesses billions of dollars. Identity thieves are very successful because society has made it very easy.

When it comes to physical security, society accepts the measures necessary to protect its homes and families by locking doors, installing alarms, employing neighborhood watch programs, etc. Society also accepts security checks at airports and other high risk areas, and here at the AOC, we accept our physical security procedures. We, as a society, live and do these actions everyday without thinking about them. However, our society has not done what it needs to do to protect its identity or deter identity thieves.

First, let us discuss what type of information and records identity thieves are looking for. Identity thieves look for any data that can be profitable, either through the creation of accounts, manipulation, or blackmail. Data of interest includes:

- Social Security Numbers
- Billing Information
- Birthdates
- Medical diagnosis, Treatments and Medications
- Home address and telephone numbers

Here are the **top four tips** on protecting the information above:

1. **Never email the data listed above** (This includes at work). Email is not secure and it never goes away. Email goes through many points and is easily read as it traverses the Internet from its source to its destination. It is not uncommon for this information to pass through foreign countries while in transit.
2. **Never store the data listed above on unapproved or unprotected drives.** Examples include laptops or flash drives. These devices are easily lost or stolen. If data must be stored on such devices, use a strong encryption algorithm such as **3DES** or **AES**.
3. **Shred all printed documents and disks that are no longer needed.** Identity thieves love trash cans and dumpsters. This includes bank statements, credit card billing information, credit application forms, résumés, etc. At work, shred all confidential data and personnel data. If in doubt, **shred it**.
4. **Lock computers or, better yet, logoff when not in use.** It only takes a thief a few seconds to download information from any computer system. Use strong passwords on your computers and have separate accounts for each individual.

## Alabama Represents at the NCSC's Court Technology Conference 2009



The NCSC (National Center for State Courts) recent Court Technology Conference 2009 was held in Denver, Colorado in September. AOC was afforded an opportunity to present “**Alabama Adopts an eEverything Attitude.**” The NCSC’s Court Technology Conference brought together more than 1,500 judges, court administrators, court managers, and technologists to share and learn about the latest advances in technology. The CTC 2009 education program was developed to offer each level of court professional specially designed sessions about the technology that is relevant to their position.

What is an eEverything Attitude?

“A willingness and commitment to utilize cutting edge technology in order to promote efficiency, maintain a green environment and save money during critical economic times.”

To view the presentation in its entirety, please click the link below, scroll down to the Super Session Videos and select the “Alabama Adopts eEverything Attitude” video. <http://www.icmelearning.com/ctc/>

“Keisha Thomas, Eric Anderson and Libby Hamner did a beautiful job showcasing the Alabama court technology at the CTC in Denver, Colorado. ...I think the rest of the country is in awe of the accomplishments of Alabama in this area.”

~Jane Smith  
Circuit Clerk  
Madison County

Employee Recognition Program  
Employee Years of State Service  
for October 2009



We would like to recognize the following **Employees** who have reached a milestone in their career with the **State of Alabama** by attaining the mentioned years of state service.  
**Congratulations!**



Name	County	Years of State Service
Deborah H. Tew	Barbour—Eufaula	30
Betty C. Simmons	Talladega	30
George W. Gayle, Jr.	Macon	30
Olga J. Gibson	Crenshaw	30
Jeb S. Fannin	Talladega	25
Katrena F. Bailey	Sumiton	20
Lynne L. Frantz	Mobile	20
Linda W. Carroll	Montgomery	20
Jerry W. Harrelson	Conecuh	20
Lynda Oliver Mills	Chambers	20
Willa Myrl Camp	Marshall	15

Name	County	Years of State Service
Elizabeth K. Lucas	Tuscaloosa	10
Stephanie D. Brooks	Lee	10
Elizabeth E. Drude	Mobile	10
Amanda J. Brown	Houston	10
Pamela Butler	St. Clair—Pell City	5
Jean H. Carlton	Chambers	5
Pamela Biehl	Mobile	5
Cynthia S. Greene	Mobile	5
Amanda J. Menifield	Madison	5
Brian P. Brock	Jefferson	5
Joseph H. Snider	Bessemer	5

## THANKSGIVING PUZZLE

V G H S C G D I N N E R S I  
G N N E Z P X A D V R M Z G  
C I P I U O T Y A D I L O H  
S K R R V I S U A R X U W W  
L P N R V I P T G U R L A L  
P M G E N A G L U D T V A S  
O U S B V M I S S F O U D Q  
T P M N S P B M K F F N M I  
A T H A N K F U L N E I F N  
T P R R A M Z Q M I A A N B  
O E P C C Y E K R U T H S G  
E A A P E T C F B D J Y T T  
S C I Z P F A M I L Y H F N  
B E Y E B H C F P Z K O F L

AUTUMN CRANBERRIES DINNER  
FAMILY FEAST FRIENDS  
GOURDS HOLIDAY NATIVES  
PEACE PECANS PIE  
PILGRIMS POTATOES PUMPKIN  
STUFFING THANKFUL TURKEY  
THANKSGIVING

